Appl. No. 10/644,936
Amendment
Response to Office Action Mailed July 25, 2005

Docket No. NIT-391

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, 10, 13, 15, and 19 were canceled by prior amendment. New claims 20-25 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14, 16-18 and 20-25 are pending in this application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the certified copy of the priority document by the Office.

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended to conform to US practice.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Bobde et al. (U.S. Appl. Pub. No. 20030217009 - hereafter "Bobde"). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Discussion of the Invention

The present invention, as set forth independent claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14 and 17, is characterized by a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy being provided by first service providing means, and a second service of a level lower than the uppermost level, the second service being provided by a second service

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providing means having a dependent relationship with the first service providing means. A service utilizing means, which has obtained a disclosable location of the first service providing means, issues a service request to the first service providing means to request the second service. The first service providing means issues the service request to the second service providing means by using a non-disclosable location of the second providing means. The second service providing means sends back the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means.

Bobde discloses a system for providing presence information to a user. The system includes a server, one or more first computing devices used by a first user, and a second computing device used by a second user (see, e.g., FIG. 12 of Bobde). The first computing device includes a presence user agent (PUA). The second user acts as a "watcher". The second computing device issues a subscription request to the server to determine the presence of the first user or the first computing device (see, e.g., paragraph 0007). Then, the server issues the subscription request to the PUA by using a registered location of the first computing device (paragraph 0007). The PUA sends back the presence information to the first computing device via the server (paragraph 0007). The second computing device is supposed to include a PUA as the first computing device does.

In the present invention, the first service, disclosed to public, is placed at the uppermost level in a service hierarchy, while the second service, not disclosed to public, is at a level lower than the uppermost level. Since the first service has a

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dependent relationship with the second, a service utilizer has to request the second

service through the first service.

In Bobde, however, if the presence agent is regarded as disclosing where a

service is provided to a user, then the first service provided by the first computing

device is equal in level to the second service provided by the second computing

device, and not in a dependent relationship to each other as the present invention.

Bobde states in paragraph 0024 that "The first computing device, labeled 104, and

the second computing device labeled 316 are devices capable of communicating

with one another over a computer network using network telephony." The second

user using the second computing device is permitted by the server or the first

computing device responding with an acceptance message to access to the first

computing device, whereas the second user is not permitted to access to, for

example, a third computing device if the second computing device is not in a

communicating relationship with the third computing device.

That relationship means that the first service provided by the first PUA at a

location of the first computing device is disclosed to the second user, but the third

service provided by the third PUA at a location of the third computing device is not

disclosed to the second user. In other words, a disclosable service and a non-

disclosable one in Bobde does not form such a service hierarchy as the present

invention wherein there is a first service of an uppermost level and a second service

of a lower level. Accordingly, the present invention, as set forth in amended claims

1, 4, 8, 11, 14 and 17 is not anticipated or suggested by Bobde et al. The remaining

claims depend from these claims and are allowable at least because they depend from allowable base claims.

In addition, new claims 20-25 recite that the second service providing means or program is capable of providing a third service which does not have a dependent relationship with the first and second services, and the second service providing means or program sends back a location of the third service in response to an inquiry issued from the service utilizing means. The prior art of record does not teach or suggest this feature.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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